

# PARTICIPATION OF CHILDREN IN GLOBAL EVENTS

## SURVEY RESULTS 2024

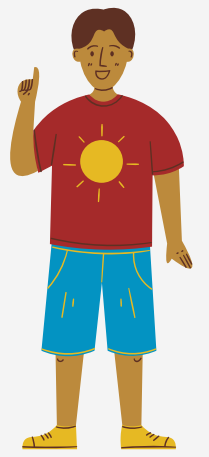
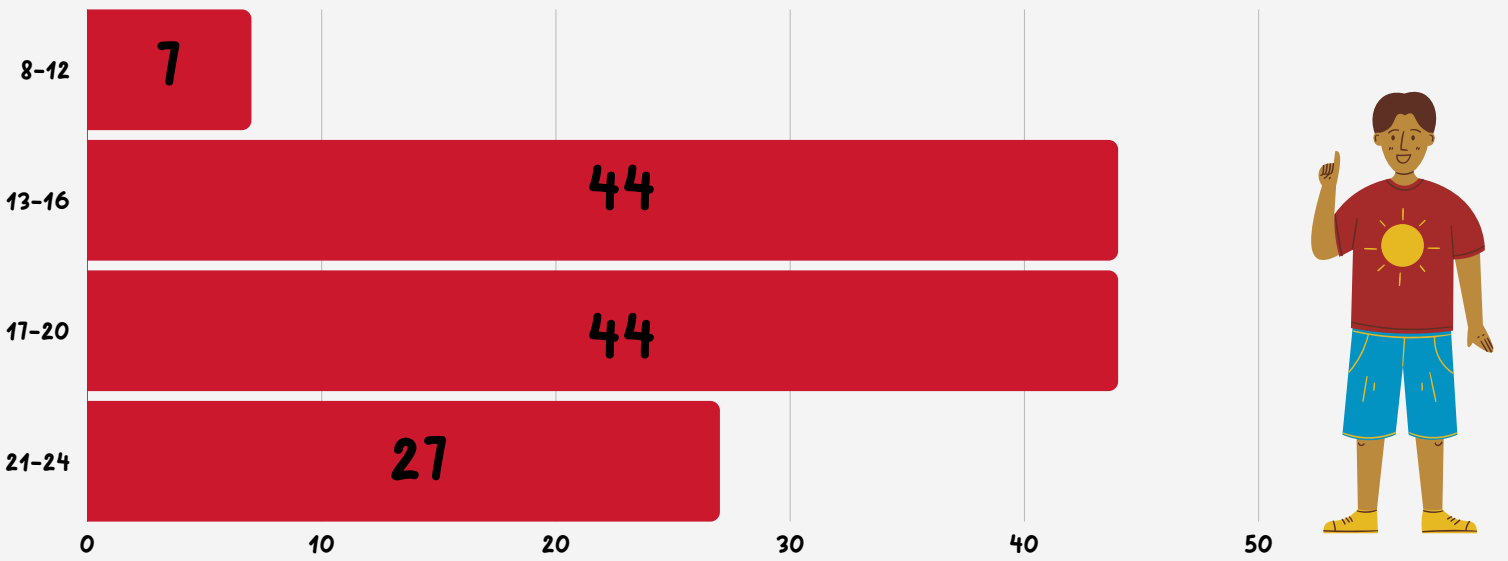
Global events bring together decision-makers from around the world to discuss crucial issues like education, climate change, and health. It is important that children are part of these discussions.

Children and young people were invited to participate in a survey to understand their experiences and ideas on how to make these events more child-friendly, inclusive, and impactful. Their feedback will help create guidelines for meaningful children's participation in global events.



What did we learn from the children and young people who filled out the survey (called respondents)? Find out in the summary below!

### What was the age of the respondents?



### Where were respondents from?



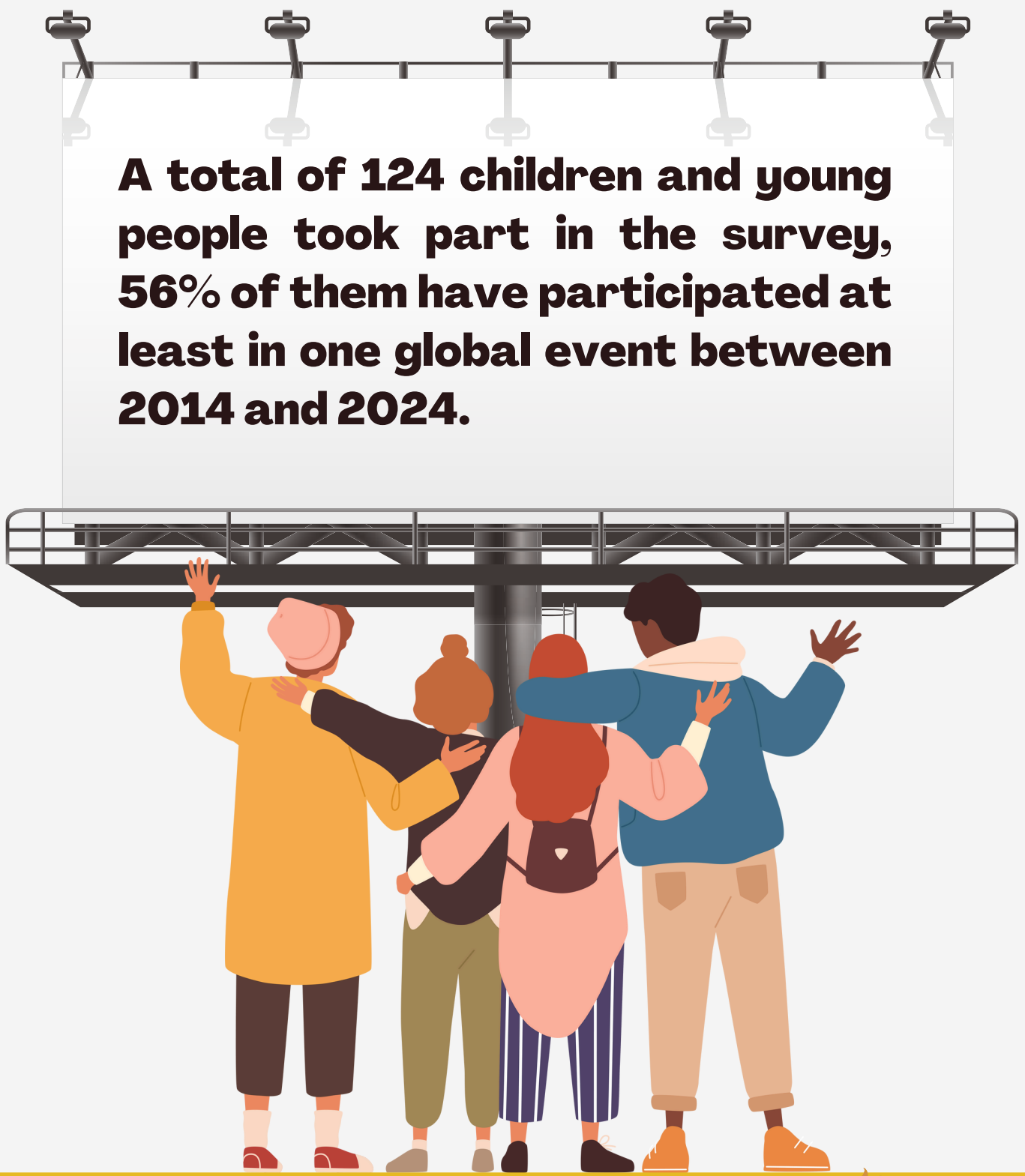
BOSNIA: 2	ZAMBIA: 8
GHANA: 3	GERMANY: 1
SIERRA LEONE: 4	UK: 2
ALBANIA: 15	PAKISTAN: 1
ZIMBABWE: 19	PERU: 4
INDIA: 3	BRAZIL: 2
KENYA: 12	SPAIN: 2
SOUTH AFRICA: 2	CANADA: 1
UGANDA: 1	COLOMBIA: 4
NEPAL: 2	BOLIVIA: 31
BELGIUM: 1	GUATEMALA: 2
	DRC: 1

### What else do we know about the respondents?

- 77 are female
- 47 are male
- 20 no longer study in school
- 6 have a disability
- 6 live in a care facility or live with foster parents
- 4 live in a country other than which they or their parents were born
- 2 had to flee their country because they were not safe there anymore.



PARTICIPANTS EXPERIENCING ADDITIONAL CHALLENGES



The youngest participant was 11 years old at the time of the global event!



Most of the respondents were older than 14 when they participated at a global event.



**44%** of the respondents have not participated in global events before. What were the obstacles mentioned by them?



## What global events did the respondents take part in?



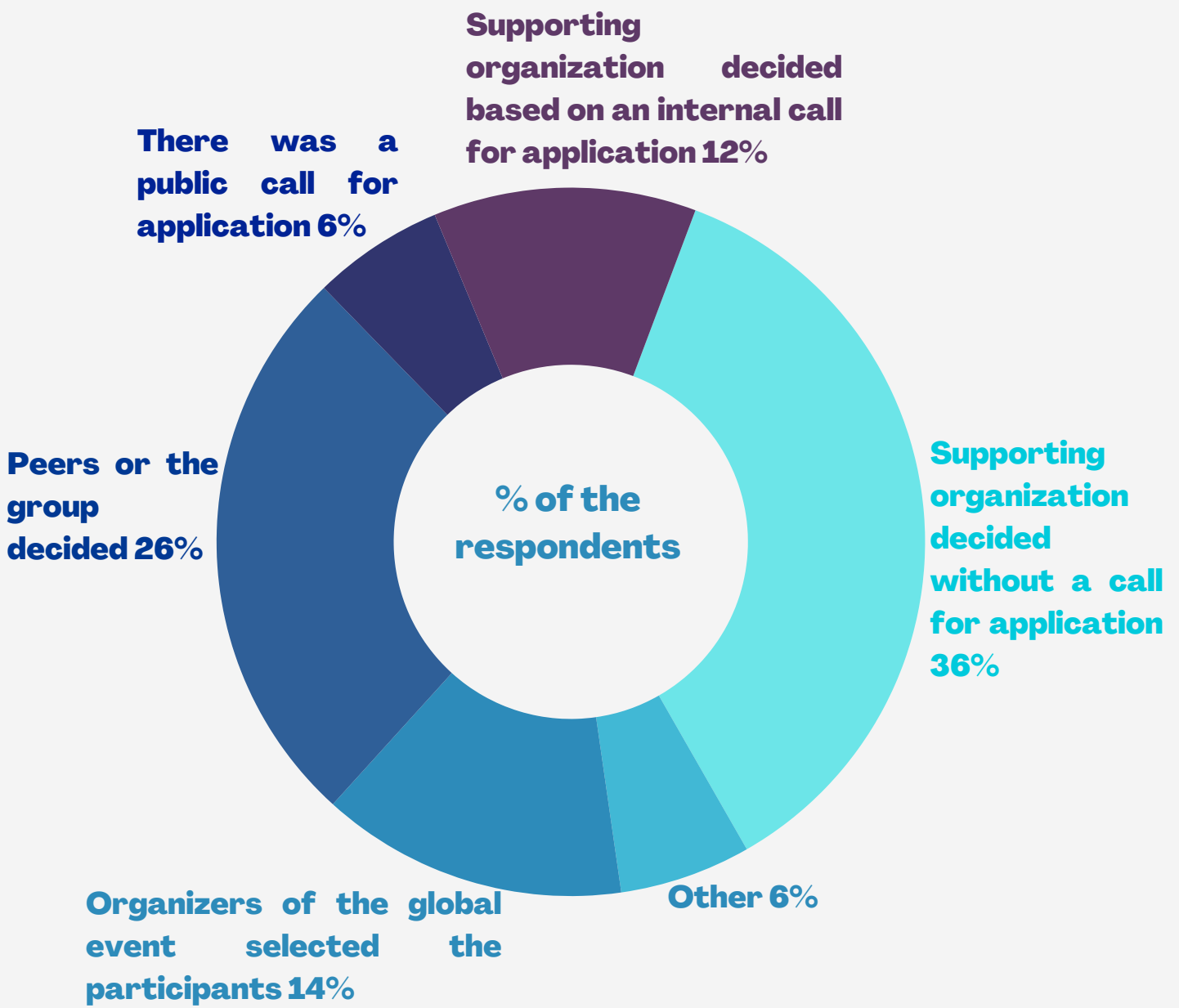
## What was the role of the respondents at the global event?

- 24 delivered a statement or presentation,
- 12 moderated/participated as a speaker in a panel discussion,
- 18 participated in a children's forum which was happening before/ during/ after the global event,
- 11 participated as a speaker in a side event,
- 7 performed during the event,
- 16 participated as a listener,
- 2 participated in another way.

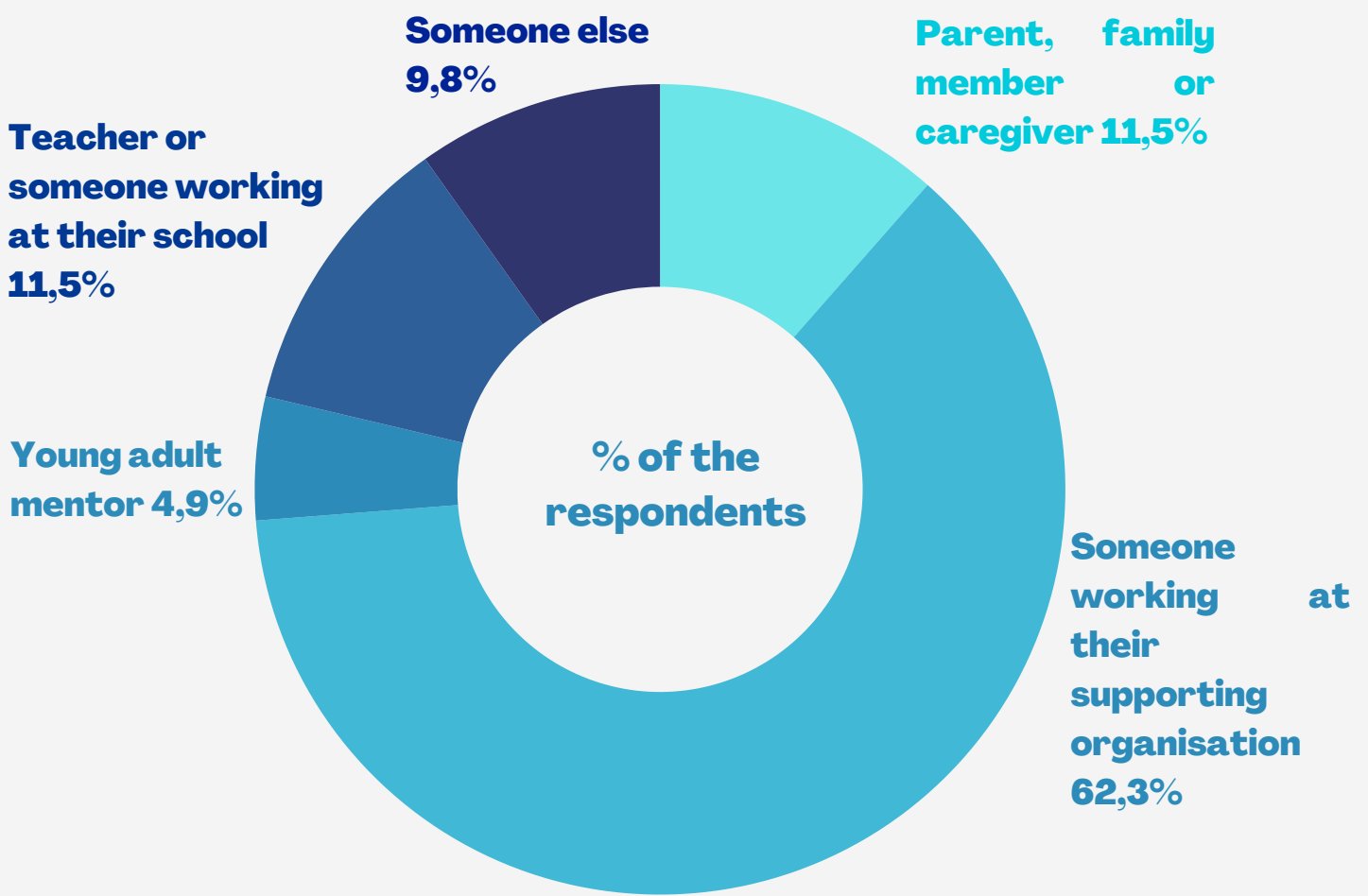
76% of the respondents participated in-person at the event, the others participated online.



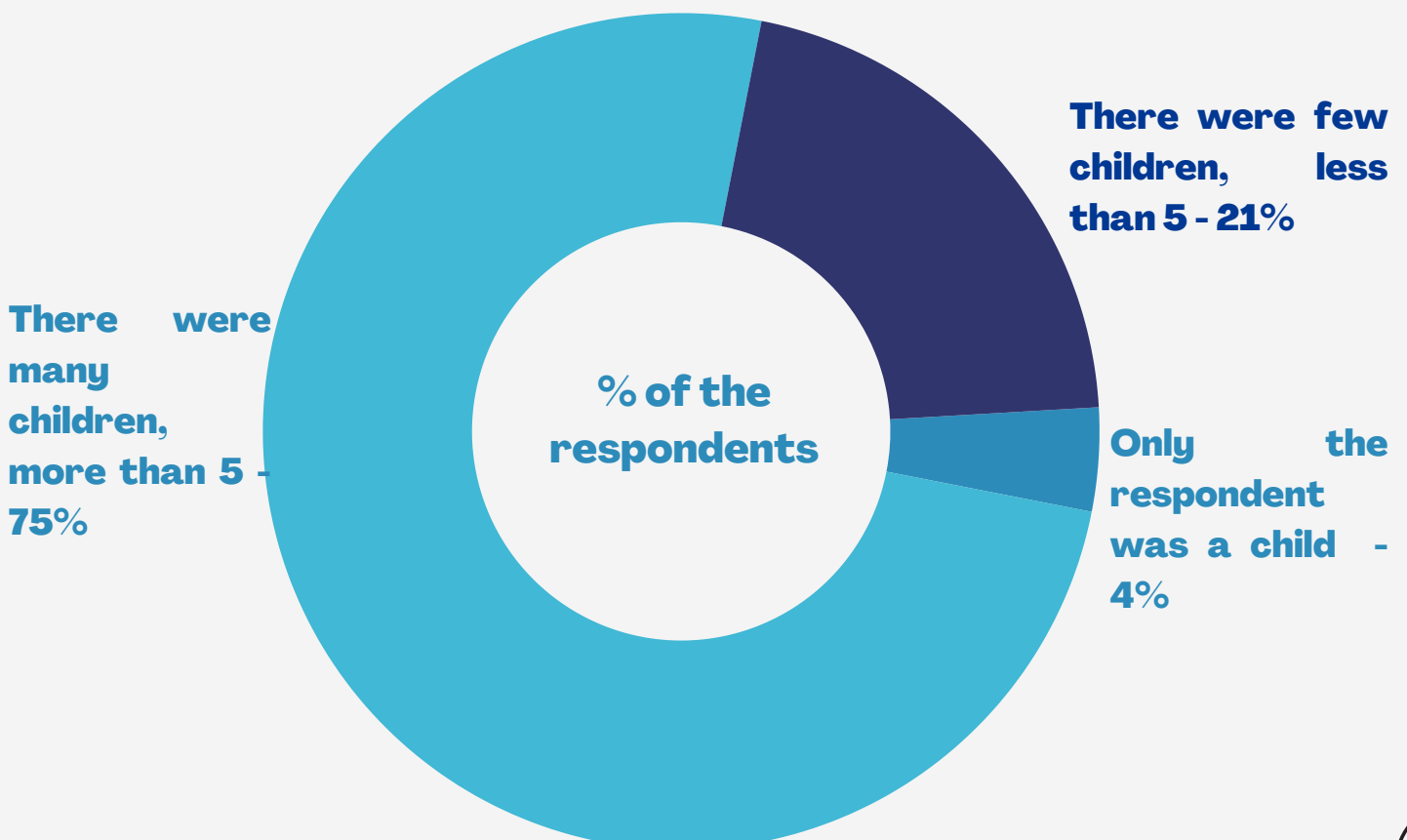
# How were the respondents selected to participate at the global event?



# By whom were they accompanied?



# How many children participated at the global events besides the respondent?



## What did the respondents like most about the global event they participated in?



## What did the respondents like least about the global event they participated in?



The bigger the square, the more respondents mentioned these elements in their answer!

**We asked the children and young people to share more details about the global event they participated in.**

1

**Was the global event adapted in a way that children felt comfortable to participate?**

*A child-friendly meeting place was used for the global event.*

76%

*There was a safe, separate child-friendly space available for child participants to get prepared, socialise and chill.*

71%



*I felt comfortable and confident participating at the global event because they organized the discussions, workshops and activities in a child-friendly way.*

74%

2

**Was the global event inclusive, meaning that diverse group of children could participate?**

*I think all the children who were present at the global event could participate equally. This means that none of the children faced a challenge to participate because they had a different or special need.*

70%

*I felt that all children at the event were treated with respect and care. Every child at the event could choose how they want to participate.*

77%

*We had enough time during the event to exchange and learn about each other.*

74%



*I was asked which name/ pronoun I would like to use during the global event and my choice was respected by the adults.*

70%

Here and on the next pages you can see the questions and the % of the respondents who said the statement was true for their experience.

3

**Was their participation impactful and adults acted responsible?**

*I was asked for feedback at the end of the event.*

69%

*After the event, I could participate in meeting(s) to talk about how the global event went and future activities.*

73%

*Organizers of the global event informed us about the ways our views and suggestions were used.*

66%

*I felt like my participation at the global event had an impact.*

87%

*There was a summary report about the global event which was accessible and understandable for children and it was shared with us afterwards.*

74%

4

**Was their participation voluntary and did they agree to everything that happened at the global event?**

*I was clearly informed that I can change my mind and stop participating at any time that I wanted.*

87%

*I could say no if I did not want to do something at the global event and the adults respected that.*

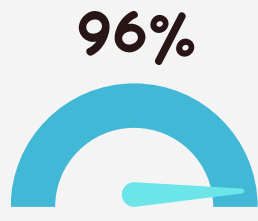
84%



5

**Was their participation at the global event interesting for them?**

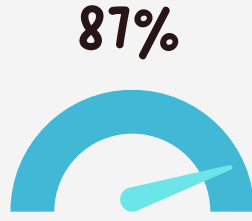
*I was interested in the topics discussed in the global event and I felt like it was connected to my life.*



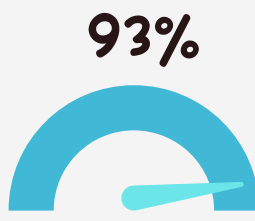
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**Did they feel good about the adults around them?**

*I felt like that the adults supporting my participation at the global event, had the right skills, knowledge and confidence to work with children.*



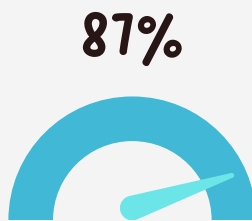
*I felt that adults supporting my participation did not try to influence what I wanted to say.*



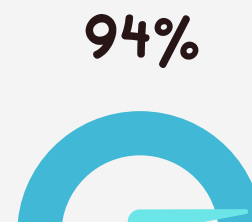
7

**Did they feel respected?**

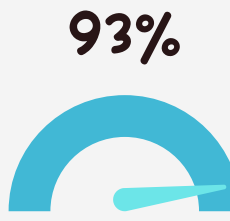
*I had opportunities to share my opinions, concerns and ideas and I was listened to.*



*My existing time commitments (to study, work, play, etc.) were respected and considered by the adults.*



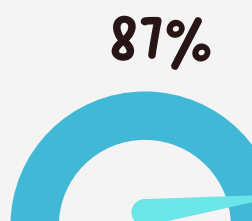
*My culture, religion and values were taken into consideration by the adults (e.g. time for prayers, appropriate food provided etc).*



8

**Did they feel safe before, during and after the global event?**

*I felt safe and comfortable during the global event.*



*None of the adults at the global event made feel unsafe or uncomfortable in any ways.*





**Still asking about their feeling of safety!**

*I knew where to go for help if I felt unsafe during the global event.*

**98%**



*There was a Safeguarding Officer or Focal Point whom I could go for help I felt unsafe or uncomfortable during the global event.*

**84%**



*I did not have any negative consequences at home, in my school or in my city because I participated at this global event.*

**89%**



*Nothing bad happened to me online, for example I did not receive bad or mean messages or comments on my social media because of my participation at the global event.*

**93%**



*I was explained that photos and videos will be taken at the global event and I gave my consent OR I refused them and it was respected by the adults.*

**96%**



**9**

**Did they receive accurate and enough information and got prepared for the global event?**

*I understood my role at the global event and what I could achieve with my participation.*

**88%**



*I understood what this event was about, and the roles and responsibilities of everyone involved and key steps to prepare for the event.*

**89%**



*I took part in meetings before the event to get prepared, including to prepare my intervention or speech and ask my questions.*

**90%**



# What were the recommendations of the children and young people concerning child participation in global events?

1. There should **MORE** opportunities for **ALL** children to participate in global events. Children with special needs need to be included and provided with information in an accessible format.

"I WILL SUGGEST THAT MORE YOUNG PEOPLE SHOULD BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN GLOBAL SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES WHICH CONCERN THEM."

"LINKS SHOULD BE SENT TO EVERYONE FOR EVERYONE TO APPLY AND GET A FAIR CHANCE TO ATTEND RATHER THAN BEING SENT TO LEADERS/ CUSTODIANS OF CHILD PARTICIPANTS."

"SINCE IT'S NOT EVERY CHILD WHO CAN PARTICIPATE PHYSICALLY, SO IF MORE CHILDREN ARE PROVIDED WITH SMART DEVICES AND PACKAGES TO HAVE ACCESS TO THE AMAZING INFORMATION BEING SHARED OR DISPLAYED THAT CAN SERIOUSLY IMPROVE CHILD PARTICIPATION."

2. The safety of the children participating at global events needs to be ensured among others by creating a safe and child-friendly environment and establishing safeguarding procedures and putting in place measures.

"THINK ABOUT A MEDICAL TEAM"

"HAVE A SAFEGUARDING POLICY"

"CREATE A FUNCTIONING SAFE SPACE AND NOT JUST A FORMAL ONE (SO DON'T JUST SAY THAT THERE IS A SAFE SPACE, CREATE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT). CREATE CHILD-FRIENDLY MATERIALS AND MAKE IT KNOWN TO OTHER ADULTS BEFOREHAND, ESPECIALLY ONES WHO HAVEN'T WORKED WITH CHILDREN BEFORE THAT THEY NEED TO SPEAK IN A CHILD-FRIENDLY MANNER."

"I BELIEVE WORKING WITH CHILDREN HAS A LOT OF CONCERNS TO BE ADDRESSED TO. WE NORMALLY DON'T HAVE SUPPORT OVER THIS EVENTS. AND IN DOING SO MEANING THEY'RE NOT WORKING TO PROTECT OR ASSIST US THE CHILDREN."

"CREATE A ONLINE SAFE ENVIRONMENT: ESTABLISH STRICT SAFETY PROTOCOLS LIKE PARENTAL CONSENT, SECURE PLATFORMS, AND MONITORING TO PROTECT CHILDREN FROM INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT OR INTERACTIONS."

"ESTABLISHING CLEAR GUIDELINES, FEED BACK MECHANISMS, ADULT SUPPORT AND TRAINING, GLOBAL NETWORKING."

3. There should be more support including financial support and other type of assistance such as interpretation.

"THEY MUST ALSO HAVE INTERPRETERS IN GLOBAL EVENS BECAUSE SOME AFFECTED CHILDREN ARE NOT COMING BECAUSE THEY FEEL DISCOURAGED WHEN NOT SPEAKING FLUENTLY WHILST THEY HAVE RAMPANT OF PROBLEMS IN THEIR AREAS ESPECIALLY IN MINING AREAS."

"EVENTS SHOULD BE FINANCIALLY ACCESSIBLE TO EVERYONE EITHER BY FULLY FUNDING THE ATTENDEES OR PARTIALLY FUNDING THE ATTENDEES AND IF IT'S SELF FUNDED THE AMOUNT SHOULD BE PAYABLE ESPECIALLY FOR US IN AN ECONOMICALLY UNSTABLE COUNTRY"

4. Children at global events should have more opportunities for interaction between themselves and for fun.

"TO IMPROVE ON CHILD PARTICIPATION, THERE SHOULD BE A SPACE FOR THEM TO CONNECT WITH THEIR PEERS FROM DIFFERENT COUNTRIES IN AN IN-PERSON PROGRAMS TO GET THEM MORE INFORMED IN CULTURAL EXCHANGE FACTS."

"INCORPORATE INTERACTIVE, FUN ACTIVITIES: INCLUDE GAMES, CHALLENGES, OR CREATIVE WORKSHOPS THAT ARE BOTH ENJOYABLE AND EDUCATIONAL. THIS KEEPS CHILDREN ENGAGED WHILE LEARNING."

"CHILDREN HAVE SOCIAL SPACES AMONG THEMSELVES WHERE THEY CAN ORGANIZE THEMSELVES WITHOUT FEELING TRAPPED OR DEPENDENT ON THE DECISIONS OF ADULTS."

"OVERALL IT'S JUST TO LET THEM BE CHILDREN AND LET THEM EXPRESS THEMSELVES, ALSO DON'T TREAT THEM AS ADULTS."

## 5. Child participants at global events need to be respected and get recognition.

"IF CHILDREN PARTICIPATE IN THESE GLOBAL EVENTS THEY SHOULD BE AWARDED CERTIFICATED SO THAT THEY MAYBE RECOGNIZED IN THEIR COMMUNITIES."

"RESPECT FOR EACH OTHER SO THAT THE ENVIRONMENT IS SAFE AND COMFORTABLE FOR EVERYONE."

"NETWORK WITH THE CHILDREN KNOW THEM AT AN INDIVIDUAL LEVEL IT HELPS THEM FEEL NOTICED, GIVE THEM THE SAME LEVEL OF ATTENTION."

"I WOULD REQUEST THE GUESTS INVITED TO SPEAK NOT TO BE IN A HURRY TO LEAVE TO ATTEND TO OTHER MATTERS BUT TO SET ASIDE THE DAY FOR ENGAGING CHILDREN NEEDS FULLY AND ANSWER CHILDREN QUESTIONS."

"DO NOT INFLUENCE CHILDREN TO SAY THINGS THAT WERE ONLY IN THE STATEMENT THAT WAS GIVEN TO THEM. DO NOT ALWAYS TRY TO KEEP THEM "IN LINE" BECAUSE AFTER ALL THEY'RE CHILDREN. TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THEIR INSECURITIES AND HOW IT CAN AFFECT THEM DURING THE GLOBAL EVENT."

## 6. Child participation in global events is a process, it includes preparation and information-sharing and follow-up.

"CHILDREN BEFORE THE EVENT ARE GIVEN A BRIEF ANALYSIS OF WHAT WILL BE TAKING HAPPENING."

"LET THEM BE A PART OF THE PLANNING PHASE AND SELECT TOPICS AS WELL AS FUN ACTIVITIES WITH YOUR GUIDANCE."

"FOR ME I PREFER FACE TO FACE (IN-PERSON) MEETINGS IN THE FUTURE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AS THERE WILL BE ENOUGH TIME TO DISCUSS AND SHARE IDEAS AS COMPARED TO ONLINE MEETINGS, MORE ACTIVITIES AND ENGAGEMENT SHOULD BE INITIATED AS THIS SHOULD BE A CONTINUOUS PROCESS TO CREATE THE CHANGE WE WANT TO SEE."

"CLEAR INSTRUCTIONS AND A DIRECT FORM OF INFORMATION. IT'S ALWAYS MORE DIFFICULT WHEN YOU HAVE TO GATHER INFORMATION FROM A LOT DIFFERENT SOURCES. ALSO SOMEHOW SHOW THE RESULTS OR PROGRESS THAT THE PERSONAL PARTICIPATION HAS HAD."

## 7. Child participants at global events want to see real impact and action from adults.

"ALL THE DISCUSSIONS ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD CONDUCTED BY THE UNITED NATIONS ARE NOW INVOLVING CHILDREN, IN VIRTUAL OR PHYSICAL SPACE. BUT, THE DISCUSSIONS ARE OFTEN NOT FOLLOWED BY A STATUS REPORT OF WHAT WAS DISCUSSED, AND ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN. THIS MAKES CHILDREN LIKE US FEEL THAT OUR VOICES ARE HEARD, BUT NOT RESPONDED TO."

ADULTS NEED TO

LISTEN MORE

TO CHILDREN

This summary was prepared by Child Rights Connect: Zsuzsanna Rutai, Child Empowerment and Safeguarding Officer, Imen Talhaoui Associate Programme Officer and Pallavi Baraya Programme Intern.

If you want to learn more about the standards on child participation in global events, please visit [this](#) website.

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